MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

Nov. 25, 2014
A grand jury decision to not indict Police Officer Darren Wilson for the death of Michael Brown has reignited tensions in Ferguson, Missouri. Many MU, local, state and U.S. officials have offered their reaction to the decision.

"MU fully supports opportunities for our students, faculty and staff to continue to reflect upon current events in Ferguson in a constructive and respectful way. ... At Mizzou, our diversity is our strength. The perspectives of our diverse community enrich our dialogue on difficult issues. It is our responsibility to provide an environment where everyone can learn and where we can address the complexity of the social issues that have affected our community in the past and will shape how we face the future."

— R. Bowen Loftin, MU chancellor

“Michael’s death was tragic, and the months since this tragedy have marked a challenging time in Ferguson and across Missouri. Together, I know we can move forward and heal as we work to find better job opportunities in and more investment for challenged communities.”

— U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt*, R-Missouri

"There will be many people who are disappointed in today's decision, even though it is a result of a deliberate legal process that's being independently checked by Attorney General Eric Holder and the U.S. Justice Department. While we await the conclusion of that independent investigation — and continue working together for solutions to systemic issues highlighted by this tragedy — I'm praying that the good people of St. Louis and local law enforcement will remain peaceful and respectful of one another."
— U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri

“Our system of justice, whether we personally like the outcome or not, has succeeded in evaluating the facts presented and has come to a conclusion that must be respected in a nation that continues to be a country governed by the law."

— Missouri House Speaker Tim Jones

"I think it was a good decision to take this to the grand jury. Everyone will be able to examine that same evidence and come to their own conclusion. These grand jurors poured their hearts and souls into this process."
— St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Bob McCulloch

"We are profoundly disappointed that the killer of our child will not face the consequence of his actions. While we understand that many others share our pain, we ask that you channel your frustration in ways that will make a positive change. We need to work together to fix the system that allowed this to happen."
— Statement from family of Michael Brown

"We need to recognize that the situation in Ferguson speaks to the broader problems that we still face as a nation. The fact is, in too many parts of this country, a deep distrust exists between law enforcement and communities of color. Some of this is the result of the legacy of racial discrimination in this country."
— President Barack Obama

"The NAACP stands with citizens and communities who are deeply disappointed that the grand jury did not indict Darren Wilson for the tragic death of Michael Brown Jr. We stand committed to continue our fight against racial profiling, police brutality and the militarization of local authorities."
— Cornell William Brooks, NAACP president and CEO
"Michael Brown's death was a tragedy. This incident has sparked a national conversation about the need to ensure confidence between law enforcement and the communities they protect and serve. While constructive efforts are underway in Ferguson and communities nationwide, far more must be done to create enduring trust."

— Attorney General Eric Holder

"We may all experience some inconvenience during the coming days. Depending on the circumstances, we may allow demonstrators to slow traffic, but we will not allow them to hurt anyone or damage anyone's property."

— St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay

"Mike Brown is an emblem (of a movement). This country is at its boiling point. How many people need to die? How many black people need to die?"

— Ethan Jury, a protester in Philadelphia, where hundreds marched downtown.

"As we continue to await word on the U.S. Justice Department's ongoing investigation, I urge all those voicing their opinions regarding the grand jury's decision to do so peacefully. I also urge everyone to continue working to make positive changes that will yield long-term social, economic and spiritual benefits for all our communities."

— Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Anger, silence and hope follow announcement of grand jury's decision

Monday, November 24, 2014 | 11:55 p.m. CST; updated 12:21 a.m. CST, Tuesday, November 25, 2014

BY CAMERON DODD, LURIA FREEMAN, ANNIE REES
COLUMBIA — At Speakers Circle at MU, students and reporters, though bundled tightly, shook from the cold Monday night as they waited for the decision in the Michael Brown case. The scheduled time for an announcement — 8 p.m. — came and went.

At 8:16 p.m., a few students huddled together around one smartphone, straining to hear the decision. As the news broke, the group broke apart, choking over tears, flinging bursts of outrage. They embraced each other as they wept.

After a couple of minutes, the group that had now grown to 30 people, circled together in the middle of Speakers Circle to hold hands for 4½ minutes of silence. The silence honored a request from the family of Michael Brown for a minute of silence for each hour their son's body remained in the street.

A mile away, the community room of Second Missionary Baptist Church also went silent after the announcement that the St. Louis County grand jury had decided not to indict Officer Darren Wilson in the shooting death of Brown. The television was muted, and the only sound came from the unrelenting tick of a wall clock.

The measured anger and deep grief of people at both Second Baptist Church and the MU Speakers Circle contrasted sharply with the rage and violence erupting in Ferguson Monday night. Chants and songs, not rocks and firebombs, were the symbols of protest, with more planned on Tuesday.

At Second Baptist
The Rev. Carmen Williams, pastor at Russell Chapel CME, was the first to break the silence. She didn't speak but rather sang: "What the world needs now is love, sweet love." People wiped their eyes. Some lifted their heads and joined in.

A group of local clergy, activists and Columbia citizens were gathered at the church. Reactions to the announcement oscillated between heartbreak, disbelief and hope.

"We're all hurting, even though some of us saw the writing on the wall weeks ago," said the Rev. Clyde Ruffin, pastor of Second Baptist Church. "The question is 'where do we go from here?'"
Mary Ratliff, president of the Missouri chapter of the NAACP, offered her thoughts before those gathered formed a prayer circle, holding hands and reaching the outer edges of the room.

"I'm paining. I'm not one to be real emotional, but I'm hurting," she said. "You know what that said to us tonight? A black life means absolutely nothing. My heart is very heavy tonight."

Still, Ratliff urged restraint. Several people left to join the group of students marching from Speakers Circle to City Hall. Fearing that young people might be driven more by emotion than reason, Ratliff said the NAACP could not sanction a march that night.

"I don't intend to help bury anyone here in Columbia," Ratliff said. "Before we leave, I hope that we'll pray for the safety of the young people in our streets."

Ratliff and other organizers announced their own plans for a march to the Boone County Courthouse to be held Tuesday, beginning at Second Baptist at 5 p.m. Leaders of local churches and activist groups will speak for about an hour.

As the group waited for the decision to be announced at Second Baptist, Molly Housh Gordon, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church, led the gathering in singing songs, including "Amazing Grace" and "We Shall Overcome."

Speaking after the announcement, which she called "heartbreaking," she emphasized the importance of solidarity.

"It felt really good to receive this news in community," Housh Gordon said. "We're all in this together. Part of the problem is that we don't recognize that."

Down the street, Carl Kenney, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, joined the students who had marched from Speakers Circle to City Hall.

"I'm asking myself, 'Why, in 2014, are we still dealing with this?'" Kenney said to the student protesters. "Racism is alive, and it's not safe to be a person of color. This proves there is still work to be done."

Kenney wasn't happy that the NAACP didn't march on Monday. He had heard Ratliff note that the student group hadn't notified police and seemed nervous that the group's intentions could be misinterpreted.
But Kenney said, “It’s a sad day when the local chapter of the NAACP decides not to march with young people.”

**MU4MikeBrown**

The group of 30 at Speakers Circle would grow to more than 60 at City Hall, loudly chanting demands for justice against racism and police brutality.

"Mike Brown means we've got to fight back!"

"Hey Hey, Ho Ho, these killer cops have got to go!"

"I believe that we will win. I know that we will win."

The chanting continued once the group had reached City Hall. Cars honked as they passed by.

MU4Mike Brown organizers, a loose coalition of students, as well as other Columbia residents who felt moved, spoke out on what the decision meant for them. Some were too emotionally overwhelmed to finish their sentences.

Ashley Bland, an MU4Mike Brown organizer, said she was numb from the decision. As she spoke to the crowd, she wiped away the tears and rallied to give a final message of hope.

"We are not done," she said. "We are not finished by any means."

Many people spoke of disappointment in "the system," and some felt that the efforts of the last couple months had failed. But there was also testimony of how this decision has sparked new found hope and fire for change.

There was recognition of the diversity of the crowd. Some speakers thanked non-African American marchers for standing up when racism is so commonly considered an issue that doesn't affect everyone.

Christina Lynchard, an MU senior, carried a sign Monday night that she carried during initial protests in Ferguson. It read: "My friends deserve to feel as safe and respected as I do!"

When asked how she felt the grand jury decision would affect her, Lynchard said she was more concerned with how it will affect communities.
"This decision could allow a window of opportunity for police officers who already abuse their power to continue," she said.

Naomi Daughery, an MU senior and one of the organizers of MU4Mike Brown, spoke of her internal struggle with not only today's decision, but all the days that have been leading up to it.

"To me it's not even about me, it's about the 108 days of people on the front lines of this fight," Daughtery said. "Regardless of the decision, I'm still going to be black in America which means inherently I will always be fighting."

Missourian reporters Kayla Piedimonte and Katherine Knott contributed to this story.

Students protest Ferguson grand jury decision

COLUMBIA, Mo. -

"Hell no!" That was one of the first things shouted out at Speaker Circle on the University of Missouri's campus after Prosecutor Bob McCulloch announced the grand jury had decided not to press charges against Officer Darren Wilson.

"He did not just say that!"

Students expressed outrage at the decision, some immediately bursting into tears and others silent with disbelief.

They held hands and gave four and a half minutes of silence for Michael Brown.

Then they marched across campus to join other protesters at the Boone County Courthouse, chanting "Hands up, don't shoot!" and "Hey, hey! Ho, ho! Killer cops have got to go!" and "No justice, no peace! No crooked police!"
Some students said they skipped going home for Thanksgiving break to be a part of the peaceful protests.

View story here: http://www.abc17news.com/news/students-protest-ferguson-grand-jury-decision/29914366

Gathering planned at MU's Speaker's Circle after Ferguson decision

Posted: Nov 24, 2014 6:09 PM by Mark Bergin, KOMU 8 Reporter

Updated: Nov 25, 2014 12:06 AM

COLUMBIA - People gathered outside of University of Missouri's Speaker's Circle Monday night after a grand jury reached a decision on whether to indict Ferguson Police Officer Darren Wilson in the death of Michael Brown.

About two dozen people, some students from MU for Michael Brown, prayed upon hearing the grand jury's decision not to indict Wilson.

The group then formed a larger group gathered outside the Columbia City Hall to peacefully protest the decision.

Gov. Jay Nixon spoke at 5:30 p.m. Thursday in St. Louis urging for peace, respect and restraint. The grand jury decision is expected to be announced in Clayton around 8 p.m.

"Regardless of the decision, people on all sides shall show tolerance, mutual respect and restraint," Nixon said.

The grand jury has been deliberating on whether to indict officer Darren Wilson on any of the following charges: First-degree murder, second-degree murder, voluntary manslaughter or involuntary manslaughter. It reached its decision Monday afternoon and was released from duty.
Nixon declared a state of emergency in advance, calling in the Missouri National Guard in anticipation of angry reaction based on the grand jury's decision.

The Brown family is scheduled to hold a news conference at 11 a.m. on Tuesday at St. Mark's Missionary Baptist Church.


'We are not finished': Students march to City Hall after Brown decision

Another event hosted by MU4MikeBrown will be held at noon on Dec. 2 at the Student Center.

Cries of “hands up, don’t shoot!” and “no justice! No peace! No racist police!” rang across Francis Quadrangle on Monday evening.

The chants came from marchers after the announcement of the grand jury’s decision not to indict Darren Wilson, the white police officer who killed Michael Brown, an 18-year-old black man, in Ferguson, Missouri in August.

MU4MikeBrown and various students and residents of Columbia met in Speakers Circle around 8 p.m. before the decision had been announced.

“As times continue on, there’s definitely more problems that are arising,” senior Christina Lynchard said. “People need to understand that racism is not at all dead, it’s just been buried.”

The problem is not just about this case, Missouri’s chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People President Mary Ratliff said.

“The United States has a very poor record as far as prosecuting police officers for killing African-American folks,” Ratliff said before the decision had been announced. “We will be viewed nationally for what we do here.”
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Cathy Scroggs said she agreed a spotlight has been placed on Missouri as a result of this case.

“(It) certainly made the nation interested in what’s going on in Missouri, which has been interesting for all of us living here,” Scroggs said. “I just think it makes us more aware of issues like this and how they are much more far-reaching than just a local community and, in fact, an entire state and an entire country.”

A few, including Lynchard, brought signs to Speakers Circle. Students huddled in the cold around a phone, watching a livestream and waiting for the announcement.

At approximately 8:30 p.m., when the announcement came, a few of the students began to cry.

“I think this should have been taken to trial,” Lynchard said. “The decision to indict should have been plain and simple, cut and dry. A boy was murdered, he was unarmed and he was 150 feet away from the officer at the time of death. He posed no threat to the officer at that point. It’s just really sad that in 2014, this is where we are.”

The assembled students held hands in a circle and had a moment of silence for Mike Brown and his family. After the moment ended, they marched from Speakers Circle to City Hall, with the group chanting the whole way.

At City Hall, chants continued with members of the group coming forward and saying what the decision meant to them.

“We are not finished by any means,” one of the demonstrators said in a speech. “Don’t let anybody check you, don’t let anyone check you on this campus in your personal conversations, don’t let anyone invalidate what you’re feeling right now because it is so real. We don’t have justice, but how we feel is justified.”

One demonstrator, Moberly Area Community College sophomore Aaminah Muhammad, is from St. Louis.

“I am not surprised and I never expected him to be indicted,” Muhammad said. “This system is not corrupt because this is what the system was built to be. It’s not like it’s changed into something bad, it was always bad.”

Police brutality will continue, Muhammad said.

“We know it’s coming, we know it’s happening now, we got to get ready,” Muhammad said. “We can’t stop fighting.”

MU4MikeBrown will hold another event at noon on Dec. 2 in the Student Center.
Missouri students want religious policy change

11/24/2014 4:23 PM

COLUMBIA, MO. - A group of students has asked the University of Missouri to strengthen a classroom policy to ensure that professors accommodate students who have to miss class for a religious holiday.

The Missouri Student Association, after meeting with Thalia Sass, president of the Jewish Student Organization at MU, presented the faculty council with a proposed change that would obligate faculty to make religious allowances.

The current rules only encourage professors to excuse students from classes, tests or activities because of religious obligations.

Student leaders say the change is needed because some students have problems with their professors without a mandate in place.

The student association proposal also recommends students provide notice to professors about possible absences toward the beginning of each semester.

Ben Vega, student association academic affairs chairman, said the measure's language was written after he and other student government members reviewed other schools' policies.
"The wording we chose is representative of the best parts of policies from all those schools," Vega said.

Faculty council members were receptive to the students' proposal, the Columbia Daily Tribune (http://bit.ly/1C5y9nr) reported.

Nicole Monnier, academic affairs committee chairwoman for the council, said she was impressed with the students who proposed the policy change. She said her committee will work with Vega and others to develop the policy language in January.

Sass said she's proud how open to diversity the college is.

"With this bill," she said, "we're really building an understanding of struggles that religious minorities face, which is good."

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/news/nation-world/article4123289.html#storylink=cpy

Round up: Accolades and thankfulness

By Ashley Jost

Monday, November 24, 2014 at 7:00 pm

Remember me? I’m back on the blog after a brief hiatus.

Thinking of St. Louis tonight and this week.

Inside the system:

MU’s National Public Radio member station, KBIA, has a fascinating ‘Thinking Out Loud’ segment about Title IX, including a panel conversation with MU’s Title IX administrator and investigator, among others. Listen here: http://kbia.org/post/thinking-out-loud-title-ix-mizzou

- Ferguson
University of Missouri-St. Louis’s student newspaper, The Current, ran an article with details for students about how the campus has prepared for the Darren Wilson Grand Jury announcement.

Similarly, I had the chance to sit down with UMSL Chancellor Tom George a week or so ago. Here’s a piece on the role UMSL has played in efforts to move not only Ferguson but all of North St. Louis County forward through this time of unrest.

“The event is symbolic or emblematic of a much broader set of issues, whether it’s racism, whether it’s unemployment, dissatisfaction, neglect, homelessness — the list goes on,” George said. Read the full article here.

Reporting disclosure, for what it’s worth or for perspective: I am from Florissant.

- Andrew Careaga, spokesman for the Missouri University of Science & Technology, has a really interesting higher education blog focused on marketing in the world of academia. He also has some pretty good ideas that he fosters with his staff, among which was one that recently came to life. The S&T campus community were invited earlier this month to write what they’re thankful for on large (really large) letters representing the university. Those letters are now displayed on campus. Very neat. Photos and video on Careaga’s blog.

- Things you find when you set Google alerts: University of Missouri- Kansas City provost Gail Hackett is one of three finalists for the chancellor position at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

- UMSL was recognized earlier this month by the Military Times for being in the top third of colleges that are best for veterans. The school was ranked 28 out of 100 four-year institutions.

**Outside the system:**

- The Webster Journal, Webster University in St. Louis’ student newspaper, published an article earlier this month detailing a $12 million budget shortfall at the university, which is apparently leading to the closure of three of the college’s campuses. Though the story has been updated several times, there’s no information yet about which campuses will be closed.

- Not sure how I tracked this down, but an interesting feature on the work of a Northwest Missouri State student to lower the number of driving while intoxicated charges in Maryville.

- Timothy Killeen, State University of New York vice chancellor for research, was named the new president of the University of Illinois last week.

- I shouldn’t assume because you’ve stumbled on this blog that you are a higher education nerd - I’m saying that endearingly as I am one as well - and have therefore read the Rolling Stone article on the alleged gang rape at the University of Virginia. These allegations and an incredibly captivating and tragic story has lead to the UVa president suspending all fraternities until early January. Worth a read and worth further Googling to see what others have reported on since.
Some soda won’t hurt an active teen

University of Missouri

Posted by Jesslyn Chew-Missouri on November 24, 2014

New research suggests that a moderate amount of soda won’t have much of an impact on an active teenager’s metabolic health.

Sugar-sweetened drinks are the biggest source of added sugar in the diets of US teenagers, and young adults ages 15-20 consume more of these drinks than any other age group, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Adolescent obesity rates, which have quadrupled over the past 30 years, led to widespread scrutiny of added dietary sugars, especially those found in carbonated beverages.

Now, researchers have found that short-term, moderate consumption of high-fructose and high-glucose beverages has little impact on the metabolic health of weight-stable, physically active adolescents.

“These beverages may not be as unhealthy for adolescents as previously thought, provided that kids stay active,” says Jill Kanaley, professor and associate chair in the University of Missouri department of nutrition and exercise physiology.

“That physical activity component is really critical in protecting against some of the negative effects of drinking large amounts of sugar-sweetened drinks demonstrated in previous studies.”

Kanaley’s study measured several aspects of metabolic health, including insulin sensitivity and cholesterol levels, after participants had consumed moderate amounts of either high-glucose or high-fructose beverages every day for two weeks.

The high-glucose drink contained 50 grams of glucose and 15 grams of fructose; the high-fructose drink contained 50 grams of fructose and 15 grams of glucose.

In comparison, two 12-ounce cans of white soda contain about 50 grams of fructose, although the amount of sugar found in soft drinks varies by brand and type. The researchers used
armbands with electronic sensors to monitor physical activity of the participants, who were healthy male and female adolescents ages 15-20.

Although some research has shown that consuming sugary drinks can have detrimental metabolic effects, Kanaley says that the results of these studies have been inconsistent. Previous research often has excluded adolescents and did not measure participants’ levels of physical activity.

Not athletes, but active

In one of her previous studies, which recently appeared in *Medicine in Science and Sports*, Kanaley found that increased physical activity diminished negative effects associated with high-fructose diets.

“Many parents of adolescents worry about their children’s consumption of sweetened beverages,” Kanaley says.

“I certainly would recommend that they work to reduce their children’s intake of sugary drinks, but it also is important for kids to remain active, especially if they are drinking a lot of sugary beverages.

“In our study, the female adolescents averaged around 8,000 steps per day, and the males averaged about 10,000 steps per day. These children weren’t athletes, but they had active lifestyles.”

Kanaley’s article, which was published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, was partially funded by a grant from the JR Albert Foundation, which provides support to nonprofit organizations promoting healthy living and wellness.

Other MU researchers on the study included Ying Liu, Young-Min Park and Nathan Winn. Timothy Heden, who recently completed his doctorate at MU and currently is a postdoctoral fellow at East Carolina University, was listed as first author on the study.

**KBIA dodges crisis after malware infects server**

By Alan Burdziak

Monday, November 24, 2014 at 12:30 pm
A ransomware virus that infected a KBIA server could have had a devastating effect on the station’s archives, data and all of its programming had nearly all of its files not been backed up off-site, Chief Engineer Patrick Neelin said.

CryptoLocker 2.0 infected the public radio station’s internal servers at 3:31 p.m. Oct. 31 and was discovered the next day, Neelin said.

The station had backed up almost all of its archives, music and data, Neelin said, and all that was lost was a few days’ worth of content. The virus encrypted all of the files on the internal server, rendering them inaccessible, and a message demanded a $500 payment be made via Bitcoin to unlock them.

“The issue is I don’t know who is in charge of this attack,” Neelin said. “If we went the step of paying this money, there’s no guarantee these files would be unlocked, so we didn’t opt to pay” or attempt to negotiate.

From what he has read, Neelin said, the ransomware is used by a group working somewhere in Russia.

Had everything not been backed up on a third-party server, the station’s musical and news programming would have been hit hard, Neelin said, just before a particularly busy week. The station would have lost data on local issues reporters were set to cover that week and archives of past stories. An episode of the local news roundtable program “Intersection” was scheduled to be taped Nov. 3, an election was held Nov. 4 and the fall pledge drive started the next day.

“To get called in the Saturday before that with no information, nothing to go on, it was pretty intense,” Neelin said.

The shared computer that contracted the malware was identified, but where the malware came from online could not be determined. Based on his conversations with the University of Missouri’s Information Technology Department, Neeling said most of the time this type of virus either comes from a questionable email attachment or a website advertisement.

The computer that started the infection and the internal servers were wiped clean, and the archives and data were imported from their backup locations. Broadcasts and the station’s website were not affected, and the issue was quietly dealt with without any indication to listeners and readers that something was amiss.

Most of the files lost were students’ interviews with sources and internal office documents.

“It was a very small amount of stuff, basically nothing … that hurt our coverage,” KBIA News Director Ryan Famuliner said.

Neelin said the ordeal was a reminder of the importance of backing up data and using sound judgment while online.
The station was almost completely back to normal within a few days.

“We really dodged a bullet there,” he said.

**Professor: Case law doesn't hold easy answer in ichthus debate**

By **Jodie Jackson Jr.**

**Monday, November 24, 2014 at 1:00 pm Comments (3)**

Case law doesn’t provide much clarity on whether Boone County ran afoul of the Constitution by having a monument with a Christian symbol on the courthouse lawn for several years, a University of Missouri School of Law professor said.

“We have this rather mixed set of precedent,” constitutional law Professor Carl Esbeck said. People want “nice, clean answers,” but the courts “are not altogether clear.”

Earlier this year, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a 5-4 opinion that the small town of Greece, N.Y., did not violate the First Amendment’s establishment clause by opening each city council meeting with prayer.

“It was religious,” Esbeck said. “There was no question about it.”

In other cases, local governments have been forced to remove monuments listing the Ten Commandments or Christmas Nativity scenes featuring Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus.

Esbeck also questions the way the commission handled covering an ichthus, or Jesus fish, on a Gulf War veterans memorial on the Boone County Courthouse plaza, which happened after the threat of a lawsuit.

The decision should have been part of a public process, Esbeck said. He suggested a compromise for resolving the controversy.

Esbeck said an ichthus next to the names would represent the individuals, rather than the covered ichthus that he said represented all Boone County Gulf War veterans.
“I’m not saying the county has to offer the family the compromise I propose,” he said. “But given all that has transpired, I think the county commissioners ought to consider it.”

Although the ichthus, Star of David, Christian crosses and other religious symbols mark thousands of headstones at Arlington National Cemetery, Esbeck said those symbols “are clearly within the bounds of the Constitution” because they mark the remains of a particular individual.

Commissioners held no public discussion and did not vote on an official order to cover the symbol. Instead, County Counselor C.J. Dykhouse said the decision was similar to other routine building and grounds matters — such as repairing a broken window — that don’t require full commission input or official orders. The decision was a response to an inquiry by Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

“I’m disappointed here in the behavior of our county commissioners acting out of intimidation and then doing it in secret knowing it would bring a storm of protest if not explained,” Esbeck said.

The ichthus was covered in June with a plaque that reads “Dedicated 1992.”

County commissioners were attending a statewide training conference Monday and were not available for comment.

Peter Scavone, a New York architect and former Boone County resident, accused the commission of “desecrating” the memorial, and William and Marsha Connor, parents of Patrick Connor, one of two men listed on the memorial, said covering the ichthus with a stone plaque was “an affront” to their son and their faith.

“We want the stone removed,” Marsha Connor said Monday morning.

The Connors, living in New York since 1985, visited the memorial on Wednesday. The memorial also lists the name of Steven Farnen, who, along with Patrick Connor, was among 10 Missourians who died during Operation Desert Storm.

Dykhouse has said the commission made the decision to cover the ichthus to avoid a possible lawsuit.

After hearing comments from a dozen people during the commission’s public meeting on Nov. 13, Presiding Commissioner Dan Atwill announced the commission would hold another meeting to hear more comments and possibly reconsider its decision.

Northern District Commissioner Janet Thompson said the meeting will take place after the upcoming holiday.
MU dorms to open early for Missouri football game
Monday, November 24, 2014 | 9:08 p.m. CST
BY MICHAEL SHAW

COLUMBIA — MU residence halls will open early in preparation for Missouri football's season finale against Arkansas.

The university's Department of Residential Life, which operates 25 student housing complexes, announced Monday that residence halls will open at 11 a.m. Friday.

"We have great students here, great Mizzou fans and the dorms are opened up," Missouri coach Gary Pinkel said. "I'd like to think most of them will jump on that."

Missouri plays Arkansas at 1:30 p.m. Friday. Pinkel was asked Monday if he's concerned whether Memorial Stadium's student section will be filled because of MU's Thanksgiving break.

"I'd be disappointed (if the student section wasn't filled)," Pinkel said.

MU residence halls typically open on Sunday after an academic break.

U.Va. board to discuss sex assault allegations
By FREDERIC J. FROMMER
CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — The University of Virginia Board of Visitors is holding a special meeting to discuss recent allegations of sexual assault that have rocked the campus.

The board on Tuesday will also take up the university's policies for handling sexual assault cases.

The meeting comes after Rolling Stone published an article describing a woman's account of a brutal gang rape — and what the magazine called a hidden culture of sexual violence at the school.

University President Teresa Sullivan has asked police to investigate the alleged rape at the Phi Kappa Psi house, and she has said the article contained details previously unknown to officials.

The school has temporarily banned fraternity activities in response to the allegations.